

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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SECRETARY HICKEL TO DEDICATE RACHEL CARSON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN MAINE

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel will dedicate the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge near Wells, Maine, on June 27.

During the 2 p.m. ceremony, a plaque honoring Miss Carson, noted author of "Silent Spring," "The Sea Around Us," and "Under the Sea-Wind," will be unveiled at a woodland site overlooking tidal marshes and the ocean.

The dedication is being sponsored by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, which operates the national wildlife refuge system, and by the Nature Conservancy's Maine chapter, which has been preserving natural areas in the Pine Tree State since 1956.

In addition to Secretary Hickel, who will make the main address, other public officials and prominent conservationists have been invited to speak at the dedication.

Following a teaching career at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland, Miss Carson joined the Interior Department in 1936. When she left Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service in 1952 to devote full time to her writing, her articles and essays already had appeared in many of the nation's leading periodicals.

Miss Carson is credited with starting the "Age of Ecology" in the United States and with inspiring widespread interest in safeguarding wildlife.

She died April 14, 1964, at her home in Silver Spring, Md.

Last October Secretary Hickel made the decision to name a national wildlife refuge in her memory. The seacoast now occupied by the refuge was well known to the author, who had a summer home nearby. Set aside originally in 1966 as Coastal Maine Refuge, the area will be expanded from its present 1,305 acres to about 4,000 acres.